The Congregationalist

The First Congregational Church
CHEYENNE, WYOMING
The Reverend Leslie G. Deinstadt, Pastor

Photo by Louis Fulmer

Host Church for the Annual Meeting of the National Association

AUGUST 22-24, 1961

VOLUME 4 JUNE, 1961 NUMBER 6

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free."— Galatians 5:1

THE MISSIONARY COLUMN

Dr. Howell D. Davies, Chicago, Illinois

The Macedonian Cry

The Directors of the Missionary Society need more contributions to the General Fund, so that they can respond to the Macedonian Cry for help from new continuing Congregational Christian Churches just starting, and from workers abroad. For instance, there is the $8,210 item in the budget for the Pine Hill, Michigan, Church and the $8,500 item for the Fair Oak, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Church. And there are others.

Formosa Bible Class
(cross marks the leader, Mr. Chung)

From **Formosa** comes the appeal this year from Rev. Jordan Wen saying "Last December we seized an opportunity to establish another chapel for aborigines. I borrowed some money . . . rent a house. Thus we start chapel with only $100 . . . We have 14 chapels and church, with 12 preachers and 2 Bible Women. Every month need $380. Our debt amounts to $700 . . . Please write to your good friends to get urgent help. Otherwise we must stop chapels." During the Chinese New Year holiday gospel meetings were held three nights. Three men and two women confessed Jesus as their Saviour. It is amazing how far a little money will go. $40 will provide for a preacher and wife for a month. $25 a month for a preacher. Cannot some church group "adopt" one or two chapels or a worker? A California church sends $90 quarterly to maintain a new Sunday School out of Taipei.

From **Hong Kong** comes the appeal from Rev. Benjamin Chen of Berea Bible Institute, which trains preachers and operates roof-top Sunday Schools and befriends pitiful refugees from Communist China, for $290 per month for rent ($50), salaries ($120), aid to 10 students ($100), electricity, water, etc. ($20). Also $200 per month for traveling preacher expense, medicine for poor, printing, chapel rent ($50 each). $10,000 is also sought for new development (land, building, furnishings and car to reach new area.) Many church groups are helping with contributions in appreciation of the beautiful Chinese dolls, silk bags and pincushions sent as gifts to those contributing.

From **South India** comes the appeal for the new group of 72 Churches that have the courage to break with the episcopally administered Church of South India in order to be free Churches, joining those Churches that for some years have steadfastly asserted their independence. This break means much sacrifice and they must be helped to the extent of $170 per month with 2 ordained circle pastors for baptisms, marriages, communion, etc. "At least one church building for every circle of 12 churches will have to be rebuilt at a cost of $400 to $500 a year." Then, these people having gone to court for their rights long before of such a thing in America, have heavy litigation expenses to meet. Certain of their victories have already been reported. Then there is the appeal for the residence of the new missionary, Rev. Olli H. Jokisaari, its completion and furnishings, with money for the son's schooling and compensation for the money advanced by Mr. Jokisaari to cover a $430 bank failure loss. The situation calls for real, immediate help. These people have little of this world's goods. In North India the unique Ahmednagar School of Theology and Social Sciences, established by our Dr. B. P. Hivale and with the name "Congregational" over the entrance, is another opportunity that constitutes a clear call for help.

Help the Directors help this work at home and abroad. Send them money for the General Fund.

COOPERATION IN AN INDUSTRIAL CITY

In an effort to strengthen the Congregational Way in an industrial city, the First Congregational Church of Fall River, Massachusetts, has entered into association with the Bogle Street Church in the same city. Problems of ministerial service for the Bogle Street Church are to be met by having the two ministers of First Church, Rev. Charles C. Smith and Rev. George W. Brown, Jr. occupy the pulpit at a 9:30 service, alternating by months, and serve the parish in pastoral duties and in Christian Education. In turn the Bogle Street Church pays into the treasury of First Church an annual stipend in recognization of services rendered.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST is published and circulated monthly except July and August by the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the United States.

Rev. Joseph J. Russell, 61 East Street, Melrose 76, Massachusetts, Eastern Field Representative and Editor. Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr., Executive Secretary, 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr., Milwaukee, Wisconsin

What Is The National Association?

During the period in which Churches have been voting on the Constitution of the United Church of Christ, the impression may have been given that the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is simply against something. This is not true. The National Association is primarily interested in developing a positive program of fellowship and cooperation for continuing Congregational Churches.

It is true that we are against participation in the United Church. We feel that such participation is a departure from the Congregational Way. We also feel that such participation gives support to a concept of Christian unity with which we cannot agree. We believe in a fellowship of free Churches. We do not believe in the organic union of denominations into one United Church.

We want to emphasize again that the National Association is at work in many areas of church life, developing a creative response to the needs and desires of its member Churches. We have a positive forward look. We believe in the way of freedom and fellowship. We intend to witness to this way. We intend to build a vital Congregationalism as one aspect of the Christian response to the problems of modern society.

We are accomplishing these objectives primarily through six commissions. Some of the recent ideas and plans of each of these commissions are described in this or other issues of THE CONGREGATIONALIST. The important point to note is that the various ideas and projects which have already been put into effect are the result of the volunteer work of dedicated Congregational people. There are over sixty-five different people from all parts of the country participating as members of the six commissions.

National Congregational Fellowship

On June 1 it was announced that the National Association has launched a new organization for individuals who wish to maintain contact with the Congregational Way. The National Association is an organization of Churches. For many reasons it has seemed advisable to develop an organization for individuals.

This new organization will be called the National Congregational Fellowship. Any person interested in maintaining contact with the Congregational Way is eligible for membership. The minimum annual dues will be one dollar. A sustaining membership will be five dollars and a sponsoring membership will be ten dollars.

This new organization will publish a quarterly newsletter. It will sponsor well known Congregational leaders as speakers in regional meetings. It will encourage the development of Congregational Clubs in national and local areas. It will give advice on the formation of Congregational fellowship groups. It will develop and maintain a supply of Congregational literature.

This organization has been developed in response to the desire of many people who belong to Churches which have decided to join the United Church of Christ. These individuals want to maintain contact with Congregationalism. This organization will be the means by which they may do so. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the National Congregational Fellowship is asked to write to Neil H. Swanson, Jr., 176 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee 3, Wisconsin.

"NEW FRONTIERS FOR LAYMEN"

"New Frontiers For Laymen" was the theme for the Spring meeting of the Laymen's Fellowship of Pennsylvania, held on Saturday, April 15, at the Etna Congregational Church, Rev. Martin Leiserder, Pastor. There were 34 laymen present from six Western Pennsylvania Churches. Lay speaker was Mr. Ronald Spahr of McKeesport.

Many of the men who said "it couldn't happen here" were shocked by the showing of the film "Operation Abolition" and the presentation of a taped interview with the Mayor of San Francisco.

The Second Annual Laymen's Retreat was announced to be held at Hartman Center, May 26-28. This organization is open to any layman who is willing to stand up for Congregational principles. Information may be obtained by writing to Mr. Elmer Meyers, 844 Coulter Road, McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

Officers elected for the year are: Herb Breitinger, McKeesport, President; Wayne Frederick, Etna, First Vice President; John Chuto, Duquesne, Second Vice President; Elmer Meyers, McKeesport, Secretary; and Calvin Weissert, McKeesport, Treasurer.

(Reported by Elmer Meyers, Secretary)

PROGRESS AT WICHITA

In the ten weeks between January 15, when Dr. Walter G. Couch, Jr., became pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, Kansas, and Palm Sunday, March 26, amazing gains have been made in the vitality and activity of the Church. On Palm Sunday 96 new members were received, about one-third of them from the Church School, the others from many directions and faiths. Mr. James H. Compton, a leading member, writes, "We are thrilled by the response of the people to Dr. Couch's message and his sincerity."

We are told that this will be an excellent year to visit Kansas, since it is the Centennial Year of the admission of Kansas to statehood. Many early pioneer scenes will be reenacted with great authenticity. It will be a golden opportunity to experience the flavor of the old West. Families en route to or from the National Association Annual Meeting at Cheyenne, Wyoming, who may want to visit Kansas, may write to the Chamber of Commerce, Wichita, for information.

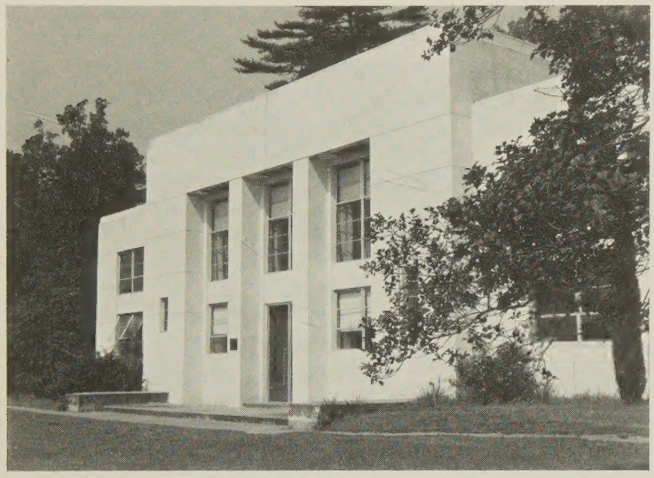
Plans for the Pilgrim Fellowship Camp from July 10 to 15 are in charge of Mr. Robert E. Blase, Director, c/o Kansas Congregational Christian Fellowship, 6514 Beachy, Wichita 6.

WOMEN'S WORK

MRS. ROBERT E. COLLINS, Chairman
1014 FLORAL DRIVE, S.E., GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

The Piedmont Library

Piedmont College in Demorest, Georgia has this beautiful library, the E. Louise Patten Library. It needs at least $2,000 worth of books each year to meet requirements. Piedmont looks to her many friends among our Congregational Christian fellowship for help in meeting this need.



The Library, Piedmont College

Piedmont College is a Congregational College, founded in 1897, and has been serving the youth of the southland since that time. Its campus nestles in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Its students have come from near and far seeking an education, a Christian experience which will ably prepare them for their chosen life work. To provide the many services Piedmont offers, as well as to realize some of the goals it dreams about, requires much help from many friends.

Because the vital needs of the library were made known, the Commission on Women's Work was approached by an open letter which appeared in the March, 1960 issue of THE CONGREGATIONALIST, written by Mrs. John Alexander, in which she suggested remembering Mother on her special day of the year by a gift to Piedmont Library in her name. We appreciated Mrs. Alexander's fine suggestion and from it have come some generous responses.

Do we need to be reminded at certain times of the year of the needs around us? Can we overlook the great work Piedmont College is doing with the youth of that area as well as those who choose it as their own school seeking and finding an enrichment of life?

The Library is one of many projects which need our help — magazine subscriptions, used books, as well as new books for each department.

As individuals, think about Piedmont when you are planning your budget of sharing; as women's groups in your Church; consider Piedmont when you apportion your missionary gifts; and as Churches, include Piedmont in your budget of benevolences. We are training our leaders of tomorrow. Let us not fail them in their need today! It is an investment in today's youth the dividends of which will multiply many fold.

Women Help In Church Extension

Inasmuch as "Church Extension" is part of the Women's Project for this year, all the women of our member Churches should be vitally interested in giving our newly gathered Churches a helping hand. Our newest concerns are for Fair Oak Congregational Church of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Pine Hill Congregational Church of West Bloomfield, Michigan; Puerto Rican Protestants (numbering over 100 families who have requested assistance from our Missionary Society to gather and organize a Congregational Church in Cleveland, Ohio); and a free Church in West Cleveland, Ohio which has requested aid.

A very effective way to help would be to join the "TEN DOLLAR CLUB" of the N.A.C.C.C., whereby any individual (or organization) pledges to send $10.00 each time he is notified that dirt is being moved for the erection of a new Congregational Church of the National Association but not to exceed three times a year. A pledge form may be secured from Dr. Howell D. Davies, Room 2308, 100 North La Salle Street, Chicago 2, Illinois.

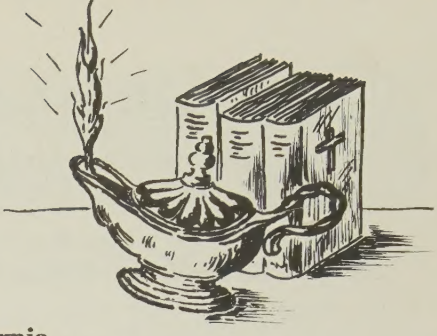
An indication of how much our concern and support are appreciated is shown in the following excerpt from a letter written by Mrs. Agnes Hampton (Box 1526) of the Anchorage, Alaska Church:

> "The interest shown by the older Congregational Churches in our work is of tremendous help to us. Seldom a week passes that we don't get at least one letter offering assistance. One week, we had letters from as far apart as Hancock, New Hampshire and Pomona, California. It certainly boosts our morale and gives us courage to realize that we are not facing our monumental task alone."

If your Church would like to hear more about the women's work of the N.A.C.C.C., please contact one of the following members of the Women's Commission living closest to your area and no doubt arrangements can be made for her to speak before your group:

Mrs. Edith Callaghan, 350 Clinton Avenue, Brooklyn 38, New York; Mrs. Robert E. Collins, 1014 Floral Drive S.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan; Mrs. Ernest Crosby, 816 Marine Trust Bldg., Buffalo, New York; Mrs. Veylerd Farrand, 1808 Westwood Place, Pomona, California; Mrs. Katherine Goodyear, 524 Scene Ridge Road, Liberty Borough, McKeesport, Pennsylvania; Mrs. James Greenwood, 2823 Olive Drive, Cheyenne, Wyoming; Mrs. Robert Heinz, 2550 Pasadena Blvd., Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin; Mrs. Russell McDougal, 420 South 32nd Street, Terre Haute, Indiana; Mrs. Donald Noren, 713 Iowa Street, Maywood, Illinois; Mrs. Ira D. Owen, 4840 Pleasant Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mrs. William Schmitz, 420 Davis Street, Allegan, Michigan.

Christian Education



Rev. Robert H. Scanland, Pomona, California

FOR THE NURSERY AGE

A prominent American clergyman, Dr. Roy A. Burkhart, whose church was founded by Washington Gladden, said recently in an address to a group of ministers that he was more concerned about what went on in the church nursery than in the pulpit of a church.

The new curriculum chart on nursery age materials, published by the Commission on Christian Education, asked the question, "What is the church's responsibility toward the two or three year old child who enters its doors on Sunday mornings? . . . One basic aim common to all materials is that the child should be led to discover that the church nursery class is a place where he is loved, understood and helped."

The nursery class leaders need to be warm, accepting and relaxed persons. Many churches are beginning to recognize the need for professionally trained leaders, both women and men, for this most important beginning phase of the child's Christian nurture. While the leaders need not be paid they should be well grounded in the basic concepts of child development.

The Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Church, in the splendid "Objectives of Christian Education" (a statement of goals and guide to progress for their church school) makes excellent suggestions on nursery age level principles.

All National Association Churches have received one copy of the **Nursery Curriculum Chart** by Marion Luenberger and Dorothy Smiland. The chart describes fifteen denominational and non-demoninational curricula as to grading, price, basic approach, program areas, use of the Bible, planning and teaching, and audio-visual aids, parent helps, social emphasis and usefulness for Congregational Christian Churches.

Congregationalists are inheritors of a priceless heritage in Christian education. In 1861 Horace Bushnell, pastor of North Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut, wrote his now famous "Discourses on Christian Nurture." This book, which has been most recently reprinted by Yale University Press, has been rightly deemed a religious and educational classic. Bushnell distrusted emotional revivals and the emphasis on original sin and total depravity of man, whereby even children were held to be lost in sin.

The influence of family life in a Christian home was given major emphasis and detailed analysis in Bushnell's "Christian Nurture." Many of the ideas he advanced are still not accepted or practiced in most Protestant Churches.

It is entirely fitting that the National Association Commission on Christian Education should publish first a survey of Junior High and now Nursery materials available for the church school. We need to give serious thought to the development of a curriculum which will carry forward the concepts which Horace Bushnell stressed. The first three years of life were the critical years of Christian character development as he observed it.

Reread Bushnell's "Christian Nurture" as you study the Nursery chart and see which curriculum meets the test of Congregational concepts of education. One of the fifteen courses of study described was inspired by the writings of Horace Bushnell.

Congregational Bookshelf

Rev. Royal G. Davis, Los Angeles, California

Nothing better reveals the intellectual, emotional and ecclesiastical state of Congregationalism from the close of the American Revolution to the War for the Confederacy than the autobiography and letters of that distinguished minister, Lyman Beecher. The portrait of an age is mirrored in the life of this one man. He somehow managed to get himself involved in every religious and social upheaval of the time. One might even guess that he liked to be in the thick of battle, whether his opponents were men who wanted to disestablish the Congregational Churches of Connecticut or tighten up the presbyterial controls in Ohio or liberalize the parishes of Massachusetts.

Lyman Beecher is so often remembered because of the fame of his children. A son became the minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Brooklyn and the leading pulpit master of the 19th century. A daughter was even more celebrated in her time for writing a novel called "Uncle Tom's Cabin." And another child was the editor of THE CONGREGATIONALIST. But Lyman Beecher deserves credit for his own unique contribution to American religious life.

The autobiography, now reissued as part of the John Harvard Library, is not just for the theologian and historian, though there is material there for both.

The general reader will be delighted by the picture of a man who spanned an epoch, a clergyman noted for his sermons, a debater of skill, a public-minded citizen and a typical parent who could write to his son in college that the boy was spending too much money. The life of Beecher was filled to overflowing, whether he was a fashionable Boston minister or a defendant in a heresy trial or a prophet denouncing the evils of the day or a father wondering and worrying about his large family. (THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF LYMAN BEECHER, Harvard University Press, two volumes, $17.50)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP

Miss Marilyn Heaney, *Secretary*
Box 1003, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP OFFICERS MEET

The officers of the National Association Pilgrim Fellowship met at the South Church in Hartford on April 14, 15 and 16. Plans were made for setting up the work in nine regions, with a letter being sent to one Church in each region asking them to take responsibility for calling a council meeting of two representatives from each Church in the region. Sample programs for regional council meetings were drawn up, showing the kind of thing which has been successful in various such meetings.

P. F. Officers Confer
(left to right: Scott Grill, Michigan; Susan Plock, Illinois; Lela Jean Giles, Iowa; Bruce Alexander, Connecticut.)

It was voted that a stagger system for the officers be followed, with not more than half retiring in any given year. The two whose terms will end at the annual meeting this year are the president, Robert Bohman, and the secretary, Marilyn Heaney, with the two vice presidents, Bruce Alexander and Susan Plock, continuing until 1962.

The National meeting is to be held in connection with the National Association Annual Meeting in Cheyenne, Wyoming, in August. Caravan groups from every region are sought. It was suggested that old and new officers and regional chairmen hold a joint session as soon after the Cheyenne meeting as possible to discuss programs and "pass on the torch."

The caravan from the Northeast group will leave on August 10 and return on September 2. Two work camps are to be held at Piedmont College, the one beginning July 13 and lasting two weeks being limited to those who have attended similar camps in the past.

Northeast P.F. Notes

The "School's Out" Rally of the Northeast Pilgrim Fellowship will be held at Old Saybrook, Connecticut, Friday June 23 through Sunday June 25th, and the Summer End Camp will be from August 28 through September 2 at the Wachogue Camp, Stafford, Connecticut, owned by the Wachogue Community Congregational Church of Springfield, Massachusetts.

MASSACHUSETTS YOUNG PEOPLE VISIT WEST

A party of 23 members and 2 advisors of the Pilgrim Fellowship of the Wachogue Community Congregational Church of Springfield, Massachusetts, paid a visit to the Maywood Congregational Church in Illinois, Rev. Leonard H. Maunder, pastor, during the first week in May. From there they went on to Milwaukee to call at the offices of the National Association and become acquainted with the staff there. This visit is a part of the program of Rev. Howard E. Munson, pastor of the Wachogue Church, in helping the members of that Church to become better acquainted with the free Congregational fellowship. It is hoped that other National Association Churches will follow this example.

ROYAL OAK YOUTH VOTE FOR FREEDOM

The mistaken report that the young people of our Churches believe in the proposed union with the Evangelical and Reformed Church even when their elders do not was given a practical refutation in the voting at Royal Oak, Michigan. The voting at this Church was done by written ballot, and a special colored ballot was supplied for the members between 16 and 21 years of age. The entire vote of the Church was, No 402, Yes 22, and of the young people 30 No, 2 Yes. The young people took an active part in planning and carrying out the vote.

WICHITA YOUTH TOUR CAMP

Wichita, Kansas, Plymouth Church Pilgrim Fellowship drove to Arlington, Kansas, Sunday, April 16, where they met with approximately 50 other PF members from Reno and Sedgwick Counties. The first activity was a tour of the Y Ranch, site of the 1961 midsummer Congregational Pilgrim Fellowship camp. The three-story air-conditioned main lodge has two large meeting halls plus many other rooms for other purposes. An Esther Williams swimming pool is under construction behind the main lodge. Nearby are three large bunk houses and a dining hall which also contains a large recreation area.

The Y Ranch has stables with riding horses, boating and fishing on the lakes and stream, volley ball court, softball diamonds, tether ball, and the like for the more active folk. Some of our young people sampled the boating. For relaxation with lighter exercise, horseshoes, shuffleboard, croquet, billiards, and miniature bowling equipment are available.

Continued on page 7, column 1

Continuing Universalists Organize

Representatives, Ministers and Delegates, of Universalist Churches in five states met at the Essex Hotel in Philadelphia, Friday and Saturday, April 21st and 22nd, 1961, at which time the "Committee for Continuing Christian Universalist Churches" was organized, and will immediately be chartered as a religious organization.

This group takes issue with the Universalist Church of America over the latter's extreme liberal views in which it has abandoned traditional Universalism by embracing Humanism and other philosophies which deny the existence of God, and refuses to accept the spiritual leadership of Jesus. The preamble of the Constitution of the new organization states: "WHEREAS those here assembled, individually and/or as representatives of Universalist Churches, who take seriously the Washington Profession of Faith and those professions which preceded it, fear for the future of traditional Christian Universalism: they THEREFORE hereby, in convention assembled, form the Committee for Continuing Christian Universalist Churches, and publicly proclaim belief in the existence of God, the Spiritual Leadership of Jesus of Nazareth, the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, and that all souls shall eventually exist in complete harmony with God."

The Convention passed the following resolution: "Be it hereby resolved that it is the consensus of this Convention:

> We believe in those principles which Jesus enunciated and demonstrated through the example of His life, and reaffirm our conviction that Christianity is the ultimate religion; and that this belief lays obligation upon us, to continue in the great commission of proclaiming His message throughout the world, to express in our lives the ideal of cooperation with all Christians and all men of good will; and to demonstrate the practical application of the supreme worth of the human personality by service to our fellow man."

The following officers and directors were elected: President, John M. Schofield, of South Carolina and Georgia; Vice-President, Rev. James Weakley, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Harry K. Means, Towanda, Pennsylvania; Directors, C. W. Foden, Towanda, Pennsylvania; and M. H. Fote, of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

(Reported by Dr. Knut Halle, Staten Island, New York.)

PILGRIM FELLOWSHIP — *Continued*

Following the tour and recreation, the PF members cooked hot dogs on a lakeside fire. Our Hutchinson hosts provided potato salad for everyone. Rev. Angus MacDonald of Hutchinson led a discussion of the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Following the devotional period, the group enjoyed a hayrack ride. Everyone reported a good time. We appreciate the Western hospitality extended by the Y Ranch staff and the Hutchinson PF.

OUR DEVOTIONAL COLUMN

Rev. Carl M. Gates, Claremont, California

Theme for the month: Two Sides of Religion
Suggested Readings: Psalm 103; Matthew 6:9-13; John 10:9-11.

"They reel to and fro . . . and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble and he bringeth them out of their distresses." There is religion's response to the cry of human need. As John Buchan put it: "Religion is born when we accept the ultimate frustration of mere human effort, and at the same time realize the strength which comes from union with superhuman reality." A tattooed electrician's mate in the Navy said the same thing in terms of personal experience: Religion "is like a voltage regulator. It helps a lot to keep you under control, especially when a guy is away from home." Strength, courage, comfort, light, guidance are universal needs which only God can fully satisfy, and prayers for such help are sure to be answered, for "I am come that they might have life," said Jesus, "and that they might have it abundantly."

But any good trait can be spoiled by being carried too far; and, just so, religion can be spoiled if it is thought of as simply a means of satisfying our human needs. A recent study of Popular Religion declares that a majority of the books on the subject take "an instrumental view" of religion. "In effect, God becomes an agent, a cosmic errand boy, an instrument for obtaining happiness, serenity and the modern beatitudes."

The criticism startles us into realizing that there are two sides to the Christian religion, — the lifting side, which is God's response to the cry of His children for help; and the worshipping side, which is man's adoration and gratitude offered to God without a thought of personal gain. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name; bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits." In this kind of religion one bows in reverent wonder before the face of God as seen in the face of a little child, and the beauty of a flower, and the infinite artistry of a snow flake, and the "sense sublime

> Of something far more deeply interfused, —
> A motion and a spirit that impels
> All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
> And rolls through all things."

True religion must include both sides. It is human need crying out for help, but it is also reverence and wonder and thanksgiving and praise. Emphasize the first too much and the tendency is to use God as a means for our personal ends; emphasize the second too much and we lose the secret of the abundant life which Jesus came to make possible.

PRAYER: We thank Thee, O God, that above all the bewilderments of life rises the song of man's unconquerable faith, his assurance that Thou hast better things in store for Thy sons than they can ask or desire. Give us the spirit of praise and accept the devotion of our hearts, as we bring it in the Master's name. Amen.

(Morgan P. Noyes, abbreviated)

THE 1961 ANNUAL MEETING

The recently constructed First Congregational Church of Cheyenne, Wyoming, shown on our cover, will be the scene of the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, August 22-24, 1961. Rev. Leslie G. Deinstadt, pastor, and a large number of enthusiastic and loyal lay men and women of the Church have been working hard to prepare to welcome this gathering.

The theme of the meeting is to be "Forward: in Faith, Freedom, Fellowship." Dr. Max Strang of Marshalltown, Moderator of the Association will preside at the business sessions, and an excellent program of speakers has been arranged.

Registration will be from 8:00 to 9:00 on Tuesday morning, and the general pattern of each day's program will be:

9:00-9:10 — Opening Hymn and Prayer
9:10-11:15 — Business Sessions
11:15-12:00 — Worship Service. (Sermons on Tuesday and Thursday, Communion on Wednesday.)
12:15 — Luncheon with Speakers
2:00 — Business on Tuesday and Thursday; "Seminar of Concerns" on Wednesday
3:00 — Seminars on Tuesday and Wednesday
5:00-6:00 — Free Time
6:00 — Dinner with address
8:00 — Evening Speaker

The sermon at the worship service Tuesday morning will be by Rev. Frank M. Blish, Salt Lake City, Utah; and on Thursday by Rev. A. Vaughan Abercrombie, Tacoma, Washington. The luncheon program will consist of a welcome from the host Church and community, and introduction of new Churches on Tuesday; report on youth activities by Rev. Paul G. Pitman of Burlington, Iowa, on Wednesday; and address by Dr. Niel E. Hansen of Dayton, Ohio on Thursday.

After dinner on Tuesday Rev. Harry R. Butman of Los Angeles will be the speaker, and Wednesday at 6:00 an outdoor dinner will be enjoyed at the Wyoming Hereford Ranch, one of the famous ranches of the West. Tuesday evening the speaker will be Dr. Robert Lazear, Missionary to South America and Wednesday evening Dr. Alfred Grant Walton of Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church, Brooklyn, New York.

A New Legal Structure

Announcements of the principal items of business have been sent to the member-Churches. These include a proposed amendment to the By-Laws to provide for "Referendum Councils," whereby member-Churches which may contend that any agency or creature of the National Association is violating the principles set forth in the Articles of Association, may join in calling a "Referendum Council," a present day adaptation of the time-honored "vicinage council," to consider the matter. Copies of the report of the committee appointed to draw up this plan, may be obtained from Rev. Neil H. Swanson, Jr. at the Milwaukee office of the National Association. Dr. Harry R. Butman is chairman of that committee.

Every Church which is a member of the National Association is urged to have the voting delegate to which it is entitled present at this meeting, with as many alternate delegates as possible. All Churches which have not become parts of the United Church of Christ but have not joined the National Association are invited to be present by one or more observers, who will have the privilege of the floor at all business sessions and participate in all parts of the program.

NEWS NOTES

New Member Churches. The Executive Secretary has received Clerks' Statements that the following Churches have enrolled in the National Association: Free Congregational Church, Long Beach, California; Fair Oak Congregational Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Elm Street Congregational Church, Bucksport, Maine; Plymouth Congregational Church, Racine, Wisconsin.

Wauwatosa Church Seeks Education Director. A Minister of Education or Director of Education is wanted by a large Midwest Church. Those who are interested should give their age, education, and experience, writing to Rev. Norman S. Ream, First Congregational Church, 1511 Church Street, Wauwatosa 13, Wisconsin.

Marshalltown Raises Building Fund. The First Congregational Church of Marshalltown, Iowa, has initiated a drive for funds to enlarge and renovate their house of worship and educational and social facilities. At a "Kick-Off Meeting" on April 25 it was reported that the Advance Solicitation had brought cash and pledges totaling $67,230. One family of six reported that every member of the family had pledged. Sunday School children are earning money for the cause. Dr. Max Strang, pastor, is Moderator of the National Association.

Ordination in Beamsville. On April 27 Alden S. Barrows, pastor of the Beamsville Congregational Christian Church, Greenville, Ohio, was ordained to the ministry. Among those taking part in the service were Rev. Joseph Barrows, father of the new minister, and Dr. Herbert Mekeel, his former pastor.

New Idea In Youth Work. Rev. George Phinney, new pastor at the Blue Point Congregational Church of Scarborough, Maine, has initiated a new service to High School young people by opening a Church School room evenings for doing home work away from the distractions of television and family activities. "Library rules" for silence are observed. Two volunteer adults are on duty in this study hall each evening.

Last Issue Until Fall. As announced at the Annual Meeting of the National Association at Maywood, Illinois, last October, there will be no publication of THE CONGREGATIONALIST for July and August. The next issue will appear on or about September 1, 1961.

Southern California Congregational Club

Mrs. James E. Solberg, Assistant Moderator

Over 100 enthusiastic Congregationalists, many from Churches which voted to join the United Church of Christ, met at the Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, California, on Sunday afternoon, April 30th. The meeting was conducted by the Club Moderator, Mr. George Cook, member of the Congregational Church of the Messiah, Los Angeles. Opening devotions were led by the Rev. James Kepler, Minister of the Church of Our Saviour, Granada Hills.

At the Pomona Meeting

Announcement was made that the First Congregational Church of Redlands, California, has voted to remain Congregational and the First Congregational Church of Santa Ana has voted to formally abstain from voting on membership in the United Church of Christ for an indefinite period of time.

A legal report on the status of the lawsuit in New York, as well as an opinion on the possibilities of success in California if the courts in this State are asked to render a decision on the property rights of continuing Congregationalists in Churches which have voted to join the United Church was ably presented by the Rev. Royal Davis. The report was drafted by a leading Los Angeles attorney.

The Main Program

The main program of the afternoon consisted of three seminars covering the subject of how we can best witness for the Congregational way if we are members of a Church which has:

1. Voted to join the United Church of Christ.
2. Voted to remain Congregational.
3. Not voted.

Seminar 1 was led by the Rev. Raymond A. Waser, Minister of the host Church; and Mr. F. John Baughman, lay leader and member of the First Congregational Church of Pasadena.

Seminar 2 was led by Mrs. Raymond Waser; Rev. Robert H. Scanland, Minister of Parish Activities of Pilgrim Church, and Chairman of the National Association Commission on Christian Education; and Mrs. V. D. Farrand, member of Pilgrim Church and

Continued in column 2

Glorious Independents

Elizabeth Laughton Claxton
Lansing, Michigan

Among the two thousand and some ministers who were ejected from their parishes in England because they were determined to die if necessary rather than submit to the Act of Uniformity, and other laws relating to it, passed after 1660, were one of the great grandfathers and the two grandfathers of the illustrious John Wesley — Bartholomew Wesley of Charmouth, John Wesley of Whitchurch, and Dr. Samuel Annesley of London. Mr. Wesley of Whitchurch has recorded his argument with the Bishop of Bristol, at the time of his dismissal saying, "But we must have no *gathered churches* in England, and you must see it so. For there must be *unity* without *divisions* among us; and there can be no unity without uniformity."

The father of John's mother, Dr. Annesley, seems to have been quite a popular preacher. Daniel Defoe's parents were among the members of the congregation that "went out" with him when he started a dissenting meeting house. The author of *Robinson Crusoe* wrote of this beloved minister,

"The sacred bow he so divinely drew
That every shaft both hit and overthrew."

Then, as often happens with a younger generation in changing times, both of John Wesley's parents turned from the dissenting views of their parents, and went into the "Established Church."

Famous Son John is an interesting study of the effects of heredity plus environment. The independent spirit was not lost. True, John never intended to separate his followers from the Church of England, but he spent his life fighting to purify it. (Ever think of him as a "Puritan"?) When he died he was still a member of the church of his parents' choice. Probably that is why the Methodists, when forced to break away, established their new church on the old episcopalian pattern, just as Henry VIII, breaking with Rome, had done.

Well may we wonder on which sides we would have stood — Conformist? Puritan? Presbyter? Separatist? — had we lived in each of the last four centuries.

Continued from column 1

of the Commission on Women's Work of the National Association.

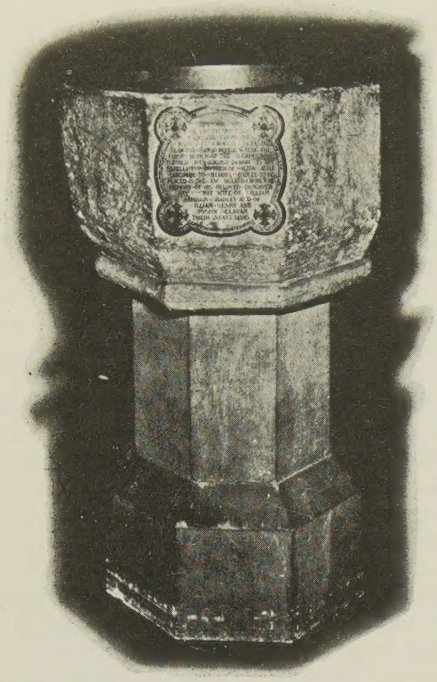
Seminar 3 was led by the Rev. Fred Niedringhaus, Minister of the First Congregational Church of Santa Ana; and Mrs. James E. Solberg, member of the Oneonta Congregational Church of South Pasadena, and member of the Commission on Publications of the National Association.

Following the seminars all participants gathered together and a resume of the findings from each seminar was given by the Rev. Walter H. Vernon, Minister of the Community Congregational Church of Anaheim; and Rev. Robert Scanland. The meeting adjourned with a prayer led by Mr. Scanland.

It is of significance to all Congregationalists to note that *19* Congregational Christian Churches in Southern California were represented at this meeting, and that all those present are completely dedicated to the continuation of the Congregational Way.

The Scrooby Baptismal Font

The Scrooby Baptismal Font is among the most precious of many relics dear to the hearts of Congregationalists throughout the world.



The Scrooby Baptismal Font

The font, dating back to the 14th Century, was used in the village church in Scrooby, England, and there is no reason to doubt that William and Mary Brewster brought their children to it for baptism. Certain it is that in this village, chiefly through the influence of William Brewster, and with the cooperation of John Robinson and William Bradford, the first Church, later known as "Congregational," was formed. The members subsequently transferred to Holland, and later set sail in the Mayflower, landing in Massachusetts in 1620.

During a visit to Scrooby in 1881 by Mr. William H. Bradley, a member of the New England Congregational Church of Chicago, the font, no longer used in the church, was discovered. He was able to secure it and have it transferred to the New England Congregational Church of Chicago. A bronze plaque on the font carries the following inscription:

"Baptismal Font of the Fourteenth Century from the Church at Scrooby, England, near the Manor House where the first Church of the Pilgrims was formed. Given August 24, 1881, by Lady Isabella L. H. Lowther of Wilton Castle, Yorkshire, to William H. Bradley to be placed in the New England Church in memory of his beloved daughter Mary C. Gray, wife of William Harrison Bradley and of William Henry and Bryson Delavan their infant sons."

The historic building of New England Congregational Church was destroyed by fire on July 14th, 1936, the font being one of the few objects saved from destruction in the conflagration.

Through the kindness of the members of the New England Church the Wellington Avenue Church has

Continued in column 2

SCROOBY FONT — *Continued*

been honored by being made custodian of "Scrooby Font" in order that it may be conserved and used to the glory of God. The title to the font remains with the New England Church.

Is Promotion What We Need?

(Reprinted by permission from THE SOUTH CHURCH COURIER, Hartford, Connecticut.)

In 1950 the population of the state of Connecticut was 2,007,280, and membership in Congregational Churches totalled 112,874.

In 1960 the population of the state of Connecticut was 2,535,234 and membership in Congregational Churches totalled 138,885.

The population of the state increased 527,954, and the membership of the Congregational Churches increased 26,011 or *approximately 5%*. This is a pitiful showing. What does it mean?

It can hardly fail to be a sign of spiritual weakness, for the percentage of growth in other Churches is much larger. Is it not strange that our days of larger centralized staff, greater expenditure for promotional literature through the "Missions Council," and innumerable "workshops" for men, women and ministers coincide with our years of decline? Is it not remarkable that the "tremendous thrust" claimed for the merger with the Evangelical and Reformed Church has produced small votes by indifferent minorities and no perceptible spiritual advance in the life of the Churches?

In 1930 there were 321 Congregational Churches in Connecticut; in 1959 there were 307. The population in 1930 was 1,606,903; now it is 2,535,234. In 1930 there was one Congregational church for each 5,000 population; in 1959 there was one Congregational church for each 8,200 population. In 1930 there were 296 churches served by pastors; in 1959 there were 272. In 1930 the Yearbook report for the Conference listed two salaried staff; in 1959 there were seven salaried staff members. There were 25 vacant churches in 1930; there were 29 in 1959.

What Do All These Figures Prove?

Simply that the Congregational churches in Connecticut have failed to keep pace with the population growth, and that *increase* of central staff has coincided with *decrease* in the number of ministers and in the number of churches. *And,* in the field of missionary giving, to which much "promotion" has been given, the per person gift averaged $6.20 in 1930 and $6.88 in 1960. In short, high priced promotion has failed. And no wonder. Abstract giving to a bureaucratic catchall euphemistically named "Christian World Mission", is no substitute for concerned Christian giving *direct* to *real* missionary causes.

What is needed in our Connecticut Congregational Churches is not more central staff but more working ministers in more local Churches. What is needed in our Connecticut Congregational Churches is not more "Madison Avenue promotion," "techniques" or "workshops," but more authentic missionary causes which appeal *directly* to our churches and their members.

Congregational Connecticut needs a religious revival.

Publications Commission

The entire membership of the Commission on Publications of the National Association met at Hartford, Connecticut, on April 10 and 11, 1961. Among the important actions taken was a vote to request Dr. Arvel M. Steece to prepare a list of best available leaflets designed to serve the Congregational Way, including some from the Congregational Union of England and Wales, totalling about 24 items. This list will be included in an early report from the Executive Secretary to the member-Churches.

A Symposium on "Creative Congregationalism At Work Today" is to be prepared by Dr. Howard Conn, dealing with such projects as the Rural Resource Program in Jordan, refugee work in Hong Kong and Formosa, inner-city Church rehabilitation, rural Church development and accomplishments of outstanding laymen.

Special leaflets on such vital subjects as "The Meaning of Communion," "The Meeting House and Ministry of the People," and "The Covenanted Church as Distinguished from the Credal Church" are to be prepared for inclusion in the fall packet. Other leaflets on similar subjects will follow as manuscripts are available.

Among the other decisions were those to prepare a "Work and Plan" book in calendar style for the use of Churches and Ministers for the year beginning in the Autumn of 1961, to send printed helps to people in isolated Churches on "A Re-Evaluation of Benevolence Programs," "How to Gather A Church," "Convictions Rather Than Convenience," encouraging Congregational Clubs for fellowship and inspiration, with words of counsel and fellowship.

The Commission adjourned at noon on Tuesday, April 11, leaving a number of matters on the agenda to be taken up at the meeting to be held in Cheyenne prior to the opening of the National Association Annual Meetings in August.

More *NO* Votes and Abstentions

Since our May issue 50 more Churches have been reported to THE CONGREGATIONALIST as having voted not to approve the Constitution and By-Laws of the United Church of Christ, and 14 as having resolved to abstain from voting. Those designated with an asterisk are members of the National Association and those followed by (a) have resolved to abstain from voting. **California:** Los Angeles, Finnish; *Pasadena, Lake Avenue; Santa Ana (a); Redlands. **Connecticut:** Harwinton; Salem; Winsted, First. **Idaho:** Council (a). **Illinois:** La Moille, Toulon. **Indiana:** Royal Center; Swayzee. **Iowa:** *Cedar Rapids, Bethany. **Maine:** Brownfield (a); Bridgton, South; *Bucksport; Cornish; *Eliot; Ellsworth, First; *Portage; *Portland, St. Lawrence; Thorndike. **Massachusetts:** *Adams; Fall River, Central; Gloucester, West; Middleboro, First; *Worcester, Hope. **Michigan:** *Ann Arbor; Bridgman; Detroit, Boulevard; Eureka; Highland Park; Memphis; *Royal Oak; *Wayne (a). **Minnesota:** Cottage Grove. **Montana:** Fort Shaw. **New Hampshire:** Cornish (a); Kingston; Tilton. **New York:** Watertown (a). **Ohio:** Nebo; Ridgeville Corners; Toledo, Central Park; *Toledo, Mayfair. **Oregon:** Jennings Lodge (a); *Oregon City (a). **Utah:** Salt Lake City, First. **Wisconsin:** Adams (a); Antigo; Big Spring; Dalton; *Green Bay; *Kenosha (a); Kewaunee; Milwaukee, Pilgrim; *Milwaukee, Plymouth (a); Oshkosh (a); Racine, Christ Church (a); *Racine, Plymouth; Randolph; Ripon (a); Spring Valley. **Wyoming:** Wheatland.

Errors or omissions in this list should be reported to the Editor so that correction may be may made in the September issue.

CONGREGATIONAL BOY AWARDED TRIP

Rolf Christensen of Green Bay, Wisconsin, a Junior in East High School of that city, has been selected as one of 26 outstanding American Red Cross high school members to take part in a South American study program this summer. These young people will work with Red Cross young people from various South American countries on work-study projects.

Rolf, whose parents are Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Christensen, is an active pro-Congregational youth in the First Congregational Church of Green Bay, and has helped promote the Congregational Way among his friends.

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND MEETINGS

Meetings of the New Hampshire League to Preserve Congregationalism and of the Maine Congregational Christian Council were held on April 22 and 24, respectively. The New Hampshire meeting was at Troy, the Maine at Scarborough. Speakers at both meetings were Rev. John H. Alexander of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the National Association, Professor Marion J. Bradshaw of Bangor, Maine, and Rev. Joseph J. Russell, Eastern Field Representative of the National Association.

The number of new faces seen at both meetings, and the number of new Churches represented, showed increasing loyalty to the Congregational Way in both these states. Since Rev. C. Shannon Morgan of Pittsfield, New Hampshire, had announced that he could no longer serve as Moderator of the New Hampshire League, Rev. Arthur W. Childs of Troy was elected in his place. Rev. Lewis A. Chase of Scarborough was re-elected Moderator of the Maine Council. Continuing Congregationalism has a strong hold in these northeasternmost states of our country.

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From the Old Country

Rev. Albert D. Belden, London, England

The mild and tentative flirtation of Congregationalism and Presbyterianism in England is steadily developing to the stage of "keeping company." Meanwhile in Congregationalism itself the stage is being carefully set for a further centralization of authority which may settle into a condition where the difference between the two denominations becomes imperceptible. This is a process which has been going on for a long time, having its beginning in the appointment of Moderators of Provinces.

The proposals to drop the term "Churches" and to speak instead only or mainly of the Congregational Church as though there were one National body and to regard a smaller assembly under another name as the Church meeting of that Church, is a subtle blow at the independency of Congregational Churches.

We are assured that the various bodies re-organized are not to be regarded as over or below one another but as "parallel" to each other. But that remains a sentimental description so long as by actual fact an over-riding authority rests more in one of the parallels than in the others.

I get the feeling and I must yet be told effectively that I am wrong, that the wolf of authoritarianism is being clothed skillfully in the sheep's clothing of Congregational terminology.

Not The True Way

Let me protest again that the true Way of Unity in Christendom is not to be sought in the amalgamation or merging of Churches — especially if polity is to be deliberately authoritarian. The portal may be innocent looking enough but the way leads back to Rome and the Dark Ages. At present the English Congregational Ministry is not alive to these risks. The leadership has been strong and subtle and risks of offending it are rather great. But the revolt will surely come.

It is really urgent that Christians of all Churches shall realize that Freedom is indivisible. To talk of Christian Freedom as something limited by the Gospel is nonsense. The Gospel does not limit: it enlarges, exalts, rejoices in Universal Freedom and Freedom in all relationships.

I understand that recently the Unitarian denomination in Great Britain, sometimes called "The Free Christian," inquired as to the program of the Free Churches' Committee for the celebration of the tercentenary of 1662, seeking to define its own place in that program. It has none — not by official disclaimer but only by a private letter claiming that the freedom the Committee is interested in is only freedom within the Gospel. Who defines the Gospel is not stated but apparently free Christians with a passion for religious freedom need not expect to be included with other Churches in the 1662 celebration! This is as foolish as it is unChristian since freedom is the Zeitgeist of the new Atomic Era.

FROM THE LETTER BOX

Editor: THE CONGREGATIONALIST

The annual letter asking financial assistance for the Congregational Library has just been sent out by the Committee on Library Finances. The need is for $5000 beyond the amount which the American Congregational Association is able to provide. This year's budget is $25,984. Toward this the highest received in any one year from Friends of the Library is a modest $3604. Many Churches, Associations and Conferences are sending gifts annually. Also, the number of individuals who made gifts increased favorably during this current year.

Our lending service providing present day books is well known. To preserve, repair and rebind the rare books of the 17th Century origins of Congregationalism is a continuing work. By its nature it cannot be carried out quickly. This past year the progress has been very favorable. An illustrated folder, which includes a brief report of progress, emphasizes another section of the archival material indicating the need for better care of manuscripts. Among such manuscripts are the minutes of the National Council of 1871 and 1874 at Oberlin and New Haven, entrusted to the Library for permanent keeping.

We respectfully request our ministers to place this appeal before the Church committee on benevolences; and that Conferences and Associations will refer it to appropriate committees.

Our list of individual givers is increasing slowly. We hope that many more this year will join those who are helping as "Friends of the Library" to care for the historic records of Congregationalism.

Sincerely yours,

E. RUSSELL DAVIS, Chairman Committee on Library Finances
ROSS CANNON, Chairman Library Committee
SARGENT H. WELLMAN, President American Congregational Association

Boston, Massachusetts

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *It is with great pleasure that I can say that the Congregational Library has shown clearly its intention to serve all Congregationalists regardless of their position on the union with the United Church of Christ.* — J. J. R.)

In Memoriam

On Easter morning Mrs. Dorothy (Cooper) Lyon, wife of REV. ELLSWORTH D. LYON, pastor of the Wataga and Ontario Congregational Churches in Illinois, died suddenly of a heart attack. She was in her 59th year. She had been an active worker in both the Wataga and Ontario Churches and in the Illinois Fellowship of Continuing Congregational Christian Churches.